

Kailua Sailboards & Kayaks, Inc.

Kailua Beach Adventures since 1982

130 Kailua Road. Kailua, Hawaii 96734. Tel (808) 262-2555 Fax (808) 261-7341 - www.kailuasailboards.com

City Council Parks Committee

Re: Kailua Beach Park Concession

February 20, 2012

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CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak at your committee meeting. My name is Egmar Klemmer and I am the current president of Kailua Sailboards & Kayaks.

I would like to share some of the company's experience in doing business in Kailua for the past 30 years.

We started of providing rentals and lessons for windsurfing customers. This was a popular sport in the Eighties. On windy days several hundred people were crowding the beach park. In the late eighties we went through a permitting process for the sport at Kailua Beach Park. After more than 20 years of experience with that permit I can say it worked pretty well until one company obtained such a permit and started abusing it. They set up shop at Kailua Beach Park, sold kitesurfing gear, signed up customers for lessons and rented kayaks straight from the park.

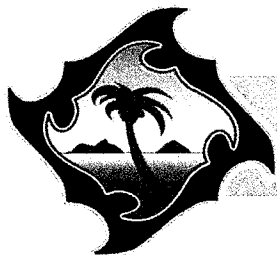
In 2004 the City's Parks director issued a permit for kayak deliveries and it immediately got abused by the same company that set up shop at the Beach Park. More followed.

The success of Kailua Sailboards is based on its location being within walking distance of Kailua Beach in a properly zoned and equipped building. Today we have a situation where companies want to copy that success but they base their business model on infringing on public property.

The company wants to preserve the look and charm of Kailua Beach Park. A Waikiki style beach concession where soliciting business, sales agreement, payment, waiver and briefings take place on the beach would lead to the following problems:

1. Endless line of cars circling in hope of getting a parking spot (Kailua Beach Park is not within walking distance from hotels or peoples residences).
2. Wait line of people in hope to sign up for a limited supply of equipment and activities
3. Concession Wars similar to Waikiki in the 1970s
4. Insufficient Facilities:
 - Changing Rooms
 - Restrooms
 - Briefing Area/Maps/Weather Information Boards
 - Video Rooms
 - Locker Area
 - Parking
 - Storage
 - Equipment fitting area: fins, snorkels, etc.
 - First Aid Station/supplies
 - Equipment check in/checkout
 - Payment/signup area

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Kitesurfing is too dangerous of a sport to be commercialized at a beach as busy as Kailua Beach Park

Kitesurfing Accidents at Kailua Beach Park:

Below is my personal log of kitesurfing accidents at Kailua Beach Park for the past 2 years. This is not a complete accident log, just what I am personally aware of.

Kitesurfing accident

June 22 9.30am 2009

Extreme low tide

Wind 20mph ene, gusts up to 26mph

Hawaiian Watersports owner Josh Seymour launches students 9m kite on lesson day 3. student is 55 years old. Gets lifted off the ground immediately and pulls bar towards him. Kite turns and student gets slammed hard into the sand at Kailua beach park.

Kitesurfer lady calls 911. ambulance to arrive first on the scene. Fire truck with rescue boat arrives later. Lifeguard Matt upset that nobody called him for help. Kite student left the beach in ambulance with possible broken shoulder and laceration below shoulder on side of body.

Witnessed by several kitesurfers – the kitesurfing morning club and Brandon McGlinn. Brandon had warned Josh that the kite is too big for a beginner in that much wind. Josh ignored the advice.

From Internet:

On **July 9, 2010**, as I was coming in to the beach in **Kailua, HI**, instead of bringing my kite to the neutral position and walk up the beach, I pulled too hard to the right (in fear of my kite landing in the trees), and my kite got caught in the power zone. Nevertheless, I was **lifted 20 feet and slammed** back down in the shallow water. The kite continued to pull me down the beach, so I emergency released my gear. Since I landed in a standing position on my left leg, I **shattered my Femur, Tibula**, and disconnected my Meniscus. I have **pins, plates and bone graphs** holding my knee together. Lesson- Fly your kite with care, it doesn't take much to turn it. Also be aware of the wind conditions. Pay attention to the gusts...

And that's my kitemare....Aloha,
Annamarie

November 5, 2010

Rachelle Farni's boyfriend launches kite and gets picked up into other kitesurfer with back turned towards him. weighs 220 pounds. breaks rib cage, spleen and punctures lung. Ambulance takes him off the scene. Tony calls 911. 2 kitesurfing doctors help on the scene.

Tony knows more details.

November 6, 2010

Another accident involving 2 kitesurfers

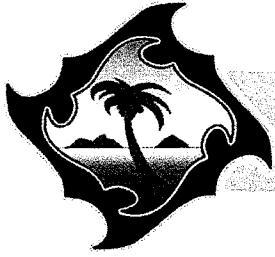
2 ambulances, no details

report copied from internet:

At my local beach:

- This past Friday a local kiter had a bar wrap causing his kite to fly high and onshore lofting his 200 plus pounds at speed into a visiting Canadian kiter resulting in broken ribs, at least one punctured lung, and a ruptured spleen.

- Saturday, another kiter got lofted on launch and landed on a tourist resulting in at least



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whiplash, an ambulance ride, and a ruined vacation.

- Sunday, a non-local was instructing another in the shallows smack in front of the launch area. They lost control of the kite which slammed onto the beach missing a couple of strolling tourists by inches. I watched it happen and those folks were lucky. I ran to the kite and yanked the deflate valve all the time yelling at those two idiots--not one of my better moments.

Currently DLNR tolerates kitesurfers to use the windsurfing launch area. The language of §13-256-74 specifically designates Zone B for windsurfers and not kitesurfers. Kitesurfing did not exist during the law making process in the late Eighties and therefore could not be included.